

MIDWEST BEAVER NEWS



JULY 2025

A roundup of recent regional, national, and international beaver news curated for you!

2025 Midwest Beaver Summit Presentations on YouTube

The 2025 Midwest Beaver Summit is in the books! This successful conference, with more than 100 in-person attendees and more than 300 virtual registrants, was sponsored and co-hosted by more than 60 beaver advocacy groups, land trusts, environmental nonprofits, Indigenous Tribal environmental associations, state environmental councils, wildlife advocates, wildlife rehabilitation centers, environmental restoration businesses, watershed councils, and agroforestry practitioners from across the Midwest states.

Check out the presentations on YouTube!

2025 Midwest Beaver Summit
by Midwest Beaver Summit
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Welcome to the third annual Midwest Beaver Summit! This year's summit will be a hybrid event, with an in-person...[more](#)

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Ann Arbor Beaver Conflict Offers Lessons, Opportunities

A colony of beavers that took residence at the city-owned Leslie Park Golf Course in Ann Arbor, Michigan, were lethally removed by city and county officials decided to euthanize them, to the

dismay of city residents. The decision caused quite a controversy, as animal rights groups advocated for a more humane option to be explored in the wake of the decision, especially in light of the discovery that officials had used outlawed conibear traps. The city had been in contact with a BeaverCorps professional about installing a coexistence device, but had felt unable to wait for a formal proposal. Beaver advocates and animal rights groups are currently working with City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County officials to educate about the ecological value of beavers and to develop a beaver management plan going forward, but challenges remain due to the state's permitting process and regulations against beaver relocation.

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New Southeast Beaver Alliance Hits the Ground Running

The newly formed Southeast Beaver Alliance is a dedicated group of environmental professionals working collaboratively and united by a shared vision: to foster healthy and resilient ecosystems in the Southeast through a greater understanding and appreciation of the North American beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Check out its website for resources and more information about its members and collaborators at www.southeastbeaver.org

You can also watch the video from its recent inaugural Southeast Beaver Summit!

[Watch Video](#)

Oregon Bans Beaver Trapping on Impaired Streams on Public Lands

In June, the Oregon legislature passed a bill, HB 3932, that bans beaver trapping on federal or state lands (excluding tribal land) along streams that have been designated as “impaired” by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The bill requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to publish a map showing the waterways where the new beaver protections apply.

While acknowledging that the bill is an important first step, Suzanne Fouty, a retired hydrologist and soil specialist who worked for the U.S. Forest Service, said House Bill 3932 has significant flaws. Fouty's concern stems not from land the

legislation covers, but from what it does not. She said only about 46% of the state's streams have been surveyed for the pollutants that can lead to their being designated as impaired. That leaves many thousands of miles of streams, and tens of thousands of acres, left out of the bill's protections and thus deprived of the potential benefits of beavers, Fouty said.

The public trust doctrine (PTD) is a common law principle that has been primarily significant in two areas: land access and use, and natural resource law. The doctrine requires states to manage certain natural resources for the benefit of the public. While the PTD has traditionally been used to manage water resources, lawsuits have recently sought to expand the doctrine to include natural resources impacted by climate change. Protecting impaired watersheds on public lands from beaver trapping will improve ecosystem function, from which the entire public will benefit. A 2024 report by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife showed that only 4 percent of beaver harvest takes place on public lands. Most recreational trapping in Oregon occurs on private lands, which will not be affected by HB 3932.

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Beaver Festivals Galore

Putting on a beaver festival is a great way to advocate for your local beavers. It's a lot easier to convince landowners and land managers to try coexistence strategies when your local community is educated about the many ecosystem services that beavers provide. Recent festivals include:

- The OG Martinez Beaver Festival in California, held on June 28 and organized by Worth a Dam's Heidi Perryman, who was inspired to throw the first festival 11 years ago because, "I realized the beaver would be safer if we threw a party for them every year," Perryman said.
- The Durango Beaver Festival, held on June 14 in Durango, Colorado, presented by Give a Dam.
- The Northfield Beaver Fest in Northfield, Minnesota, held on May 17 and organized by students at Carleton College in partnership with Carleton's Environmental Studies Department, Environmental Carls Organized, and Carleton Sustainability.
- The San Luis Obispo County Beaver Fest, held on April 12 and organized by the SLO Beaver Brigade.



Dave Kwinter plays the bagpipe while leading a parade during the 16th annual Beaver Festival at Susana Park in Martinez on Saturday, June 28, 2025. (Autumn DeGrazia/Bay City News)

[Find Out More](#)

Beavers Welcomed Back to Portugal

The last known record of beavers in Portugal probably dates back to the end of the 15th century. However, after two decades of population recovery in Spain, and recently with signs of documented proximity to the Portuguese border confirmed in several monitoring actions carried out in the field by Rewilding Portugal, beaver signs have reappeared in the form of gnaw marks and dams. According to Pedra Prata of Rewilding Portugal, “The beaver is a natural ally in restoring the health of our rivers and wetlands and has a fundamental role to play in our river ecosystems.”



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Even More Beaver News

- [Advice for fishing a beaver pond](#)
- [Benefits of beaver restoration in New Mexico](#)
- [River restoration and beaver relocation in Arizona](#)
- [*Eager* author Ben Goldfarb talks about beavers on PBS's show *Human Footprint*](#)

Illinois Beaver Alliance

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